



Skilled Trades Training Fund, Benefiting Companies

Reau Manufacturing Company – 8 Employees Trained – 2 New jobs Created

Reau, a small custom machining and manufacturing company located in Dundee was awarded \$9,830 in November 2013 to train eight current employees in Master Cam, AutoCad, Press Break Operator, and Blue Print reading; upon completion of training all trainees received a one-dollar or more hourly raise. Due to increase in business two new employees were recently hired.

Contour Tool and Engineering – 6 Employees Trained – 2 New Apprenticeships Established

Contour Tool, a nine-employee shop located in Zeeland that designs and builds injection molds and stamping dies, received \$8,001 to train employees on Cad/Cam software. In addition, to grow the next generation of their workforce, two employees were enrolled into USDOL Registered Apprenticeships and are beginning classes at Grand Rapids Community College.

Sybesma's Electronics – 7 Employees Trained – Business Diversification

Sybesma's Electronics of Holland is embarking on a journey through the uncharted territory of repair, remanufacturer, and repurposing lithium-ion battery packs. As pioneers in this expertise their workforce must be trained to ensure safety issues, such as critical fire and explosive hazard, are mitigated. The Skilled Trades Training Fund awarded Sybesma \$10,345 for staff to attend training in *Emerging Technologies* at the University of Michigan, Stanford University and Notre Dame. An additional seven full time staff will be added based on projected growth.

Reed City Tool - Apprenticeship Program Reignited - Like many manufacturers, Osceola County's Reed City Tool Inc. has seen its share of hard economic times. Three consecutive Trade Act dislocations reduced their headcount from 125 employees down to 43. The company has developed business opportunities that have brought its employee base up to 80, and now with the help of \$15,000 received from the Skilled Trades Training Fund, the company is able to re-start its apprenticeship program. Five Reed City Tool employees will be trained by Ferris State University to become certified mold makers. More journeymen mold makers will enable Reed City Tool to reduce lead times and open more capacity to customers--result in more work for the company and opportunities to create new jobs. "We are thrilled to have received this funding," says Rod Weck, president of Reed City Tool. "And it couldn't have come at a better time for us in terms of our training needs. Increasing the skill level of our employees is important to us as a company, and it's important to our employees. It's a win-win situation for everyone."

Superior Fabrication - 8 Employees Trained – 6 New Jobs Created - Superior is a master fabricator of heavy-duty steel components and assemblies, located in the eastern Upper Peninsula town of Kincheloe. Superior used their \$10,600 Skilled Trades Training Fund grant to upskill eight current employees. The company was able to increase production, promote current staff and hire an additional six workers. Mill and lathe operators were promoted to programmers and their operator positions were backfilled with new workers. A material handler was promoted to robotic welder, with a \$1.25 an hour wage increase.

Disher Design & Development - 22 Employees Trained – New Business Attracted – Disher is a full-service product development firm. The Skilled Trades Training Fund awarded \$36,418 in November 2013 to train 22 current staff in several areas, including Business Process Mapping at Michigan State University. As a result of this training, Disher was able to attract a new customer resulting in the hiring of an additional engineer to their team.

Superior Cutting Service – 14 Employees Trained – 3 New Jobs Created – Superior, a small laser cutting/fabrication and Wire EDM shop in Holland, was awarded \$21,000 in November 2013 to train 14 current employees in MIG Welding, AutoCad, and BOBCAD. Now that business has grown due to higher quality work as a result of training, Superior recently hired a project manager and two more welders.

Genzink Steel – 42 Employees Trained – 10 New Jobs Created – Genzink department managers and Lake Michigan College developed a 16 hour blue print reading and geometric tolerance and dimensioning course and was awarded \$20,700 in November 2013 to pay for tuition. As a result of the training the company is expanding into additional high-demand market segments and plans to hire 10 additional fabrication/welding positions within the next six months.

Pridgeon & Clay, Inc. – On-The-Job Training – 102 Jobs Created – Pridgeon & Clay is a manufacturer and supplier of automotive stamped and fine-blanked components. They were awarded \$153,000 in November 2013 to hire 102 new employees and provide on-the-job training. They are currently on target for projected hiring with 57 new employees so far this year.